(b) the steps being taken to promote research in the field of science?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) According to the information provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the universities have been provided a sum of Rs.165.88 crore and Rs.143.57 crore in the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively for research in science. An allocation of Rs.123 crore has been made by UGC for the current financial year *i.e.* 2009-10 of which Rs.66.63 crore has been released till 30.11.2009.

An amount of Rs.1200 crore has been allocated in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for strengthening scientific research in institution of higher learning.

(b) Looking at the declining quality and quantum of scientific research in universities, a Task Force was constituted by the Central Government for strengthening basic scientific Research in universities. In its Report, the Task Force has, *inter alia*, recommended creation of 1000 positions of research Scientists at various levels, five fold increase in the number of Ph.Ds within a span of ten years with proper standards, promotion of formal linkage between the Universities and national level institutions including the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories through joint research projects and training, inbuilt component of research in post-graduate programmes pertaining to science and Technology, upgradation of infrastructural facilities in universities to promote quality scientific research, and, creation of networking centers in Basic Sciences in leading Departments of Universities to promote collaborative research. The Task Force has been converted into an Empowered Committee for monitoring the implementation of its recommendations.

UGC has granted 1800 Junior Research Fellowships to the science departments recognized as Centre of Advanced Study/Department of Special Assistance/Department of Research Science in universities; launched the "Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-doctoral Fellowships", award 500 Post-Doctoral Fellowships in all areas of sciences and provided and infrastructure strengthening grant of Rs.5 lakhs to each of the 700 science departments of 97 colleges with potential for excellence.

Target of employment by KVIC

1781. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Khadi and Village Industries Commission has set a target of employment 1.5 crore persons during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the rural youths, artisans, weavers, etc., are fully employed or work is given to them on casual basis; and

(c) the status of employment of persons as on 30th September, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) The growth of khadi and village industries (KVI) sector during the successive five year plans has been in tandem with overall growth of the economy of the country. Going by the trend, it is estimated that Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) could provide employment to 145 lakh persons (15 lakh in khadi and 130 lakh in village industry) in the KVI sector by the end of eleventh five year plan. As on 31 March 2009, employment has been provided to an estimated 104 lakh persons in KVI sector.

(b) Khadi activities provide employment opportunities mainly to spinners and weavers who usually work from their dwelling units using simple tools and technology and within the time available with them alongwith other livelihood/household activities. The wages to weavers are being paid based on the cost chart prescribed by the Central Certification Committee of KVIC. The remuneration to spinners and weavers are being paid by the concerned khadi institutions (which are basically NGOs enlisted with KVIC/State Khadi and Village Industries Boards) on piece work basis. As far as Village Industry artisans are concerned, the wages are paid generally on the basis of output of the individuals employed by the entrepreneurs in the units set up by them with margin money assistance from Government of India through KVIC under schemes including erstwhile Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and the present Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

However, for upliftment of khadi artisans and weavers, the Government of India through KVIC implements a number of schemes which include Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY) to provide insurance to khadi artisans and weavers, Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans providing assistance for construction of worksheds for better work environment, Scheme for Enhancing Productivity and Competitiveness of Khadi Industry and Artisans to assist 200 khadi institutions to make khadi industry competitive with more market driven and profitable production by replacement of obsolete, old machinery and equipment and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) providing need-based assistance for replacement of production equipment, setting up of common facility centres (CFC), product development, quality improvement, improved marketing, training and capacity building, etc.

(c) As on 30 September 2009, the total employment in khadi and village industries sector was estimated as 107 lakh persons.

Micro and small enterprises in Tamil Nadu

1782. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of micro and small enterprises existing as on date in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number out of them which are sick and how many of them are revivable or potentially viable; and